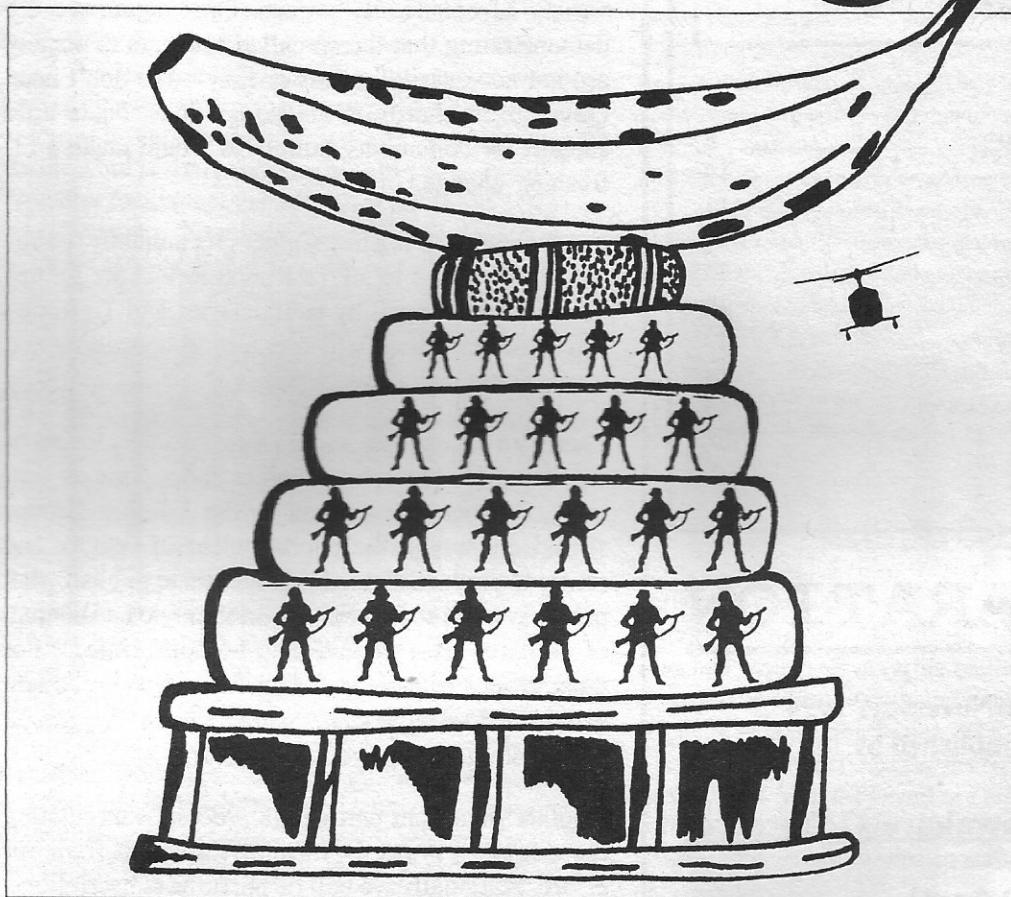


# **Declaration**

**issue two**

**\$2**



**Special Feature: Banana Republic Times  
Business Roundtable (BRT)**

**In this issue:**

- \*Gay Oakes
- \*Benefit Info
- \*Job Action
- \*Jim Bolger - Caption Competition
- \*Ballots not Bullets



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## DECLARATION

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Mark E Poo, Alex, Hamish, Sharon, Dave,  
Bill, Nick & Fraser's Graphics Folder**

**Contributions:**

**Letters, Articles, Photographs, Cartoons,  
Poems, Artwork, Advertising, Feedback &  
all correspondence can be sent to:**

**Declaration Collective**  
**PO Box 22-301**  
**High St, Otautahi/Christchurch 1.**

## Editorial...

Welcome to the second edition of the Te Roopu Rawakore publication, **Declaration**. This magazine is produced by the Molten Media Information Collective which is an unemployed printing group in Christchurch. This collective provides publishing for a variety of community groups. Once again we are demonstrating that the so-called bludgers of society are not necessarily useless or lazy! We don't need Government charity to get things done, but a little support for community initiatives would make a refreshing change.

**Declaration** is a bi-monthly (six annually) publication of interest to all Te Roopu Rawakore groups nationwide. Hopefully beneficiaries and Te Roopu Rawakore members will feel free to contribute and work on the magazine.

There are several ways to do this. Articles, letters to the editor, photographs, graphics and reports on centres' activities can be sent to the Editors. Groups should encourage their local talent of writers and artists to produce material, as we aim to publish what people want to see. Feedback on the style and content of **Declaration** would also be appreciated. For those groups with computers, articles can also be sent using the PlaNet system, which several Te Roopu Rawakore groups have now joined.

Another important part of the process is circulating the magazine to get the most effectiveness from our effort. Nationally we will be pursuing subscriptions. Locally the magazine could be a good networking item for groups such as your local friendly unions, foodbanks, churches and communities.

### **NEXT ISSUE'S THEME: DE-COLONISATION**

This country was invaded last century. Some of us are descended from the original inhabitants, some of us are descended from the invaders. What are we going to do about it? Articles, letters, rants for Declaration#3 by February 1st.

# For Your Benefit

## Getting off the 26 Week Stand Down

With the benefit cuts came the 26 week stand down, which has dealt a severe blow to many in the country. While hard to get off in some cases, it is possible to get around this issue by fighting the decision.

The 26 week stand down has the same review and appeal rights as any decision coming out of the mouths of our foes at Social Warfare. To start with, they are meant to take the word of the beneficiary over that of any employer. Also, after finding out the facts, they are meant ~~TILL~~ to show discretion. So even if you did leave a job without just cause the law says it is a second decision to impose the stand down. A bit like the courts. Just because you are found guilty does not mean a heavy sentence. Very few NZISS staff realise this, and cases can be won on appeal.

If you have a 26 week'er imposed make sure you are getting the special needs grant (SNG) which is half the benefit. Look into this the moment it looks like the stand down might be imposed. Delays in imposing the stand down may mean some weeks without any money and half a benefit is better than nothing.

If you are dismissed, take a Personal Grievance (PG). This can be done with the help of your Trade Union, a centre affiliated to Te Roopu Rawakore or by yourself. While a PG is being fought you are entitled to a benefit.

Often if you are dismissed for stress related reasons (something which a doctor can sign for) it is possible to get a Sickness Benefit(SB). If you left work for all sorts of personal reasons a reasonable doctor will sign your SB application form saying you are unfit for work at the moment.

If you are dismissed, or leave your job it is sometimes possible to get your boss to write a letter to say you were just unsuitable for the job. This is quite above board.

In theory, according to the Employment Contract Act all job applicants who are offered a job can negotiate their employment contract. If you do not like the conditions an employer "offers" and the employer does not like your contract then it is not refusing a job without good and sufficient reason, it is that you were unable to agree to a satisfactory employment contract.

According to the ECA you have every right to negotiate your employment contract. It can include hours of work, overtime payments, training entitlement, provision of work clothes, etc. This defence will need to be fought through the system, but since the ECA is one of the governments prize pigs they may not want bad publicity about NZISS refusing to let people negotiate their own employment contracts.

## Disability Allowance (DA)

The government changed the rules on 1 July 1994, but seem to be doing a bit of a back down on what can be claimed or not claimed. NZISS issued a list of what could be included. This, according to the Community Law Centre lawyers etc, is against the law. It is what they call a fetter, or a restriction of what the law actually says.

So if they refuse an item of expenditure relating to some illness or injury, or refuse assistance because it is a short term cost, challenge their decision, as it is wrong.

Related to the changes of 1 July was a refusal to pay for counselling because supposedly Crown Health Enterprises etc provided this service. Reality being what it is, the CHEs cannot cope with the demand and many miss out from that source. Dear Mr Gresham has seen some sense and got his boffins to re-look at this issue, but it is only one aspect of the illegal nature of the changes NZISS are currently implementing.

It is always useful with DA to get the details of the figures because Warfare staff are notorious for adding up wrongly, and dividing by the wrong number (months when it should be weeks and so on).

If you are knocked back on items on your DA, especially if you are re-applying for it, challenge the decision - it is your right to do so, and it is one of the few ways we can keep some integrity in the system.

## Debt Recovery

Earlier this year NZISS decided to get tough on beneficiaries owing them money. This meant recreating the debt many of us had written off in earlier battles with them, charging exorbitant repayment rates and a bit of lack lustre chasing of Liable Parent Contribution debt.

The National Office of the NZISS, claims all is well. At the same time they send out reports praising District Offices that retrieve the most debt per month, and the District Offices are funded in some way on the level of debt recovered.

Before deciding on the level an Advance or SNG should be repaid, NZISS are meant to take into account your ability to repay it. The bad District Offices have a very strict definition of this, hardship often means you have to be getting a Special Benefit. This definition is absolutely not on.

We are aware that many District Offices are charging \$20 for the first level of debt, and more if you have a second lot of Advance or SNG to repay. Our benefits are not enough as it is now.

Negotiate or challenge the decision if you are unhappy about the level of debt recovery. Don't sign anything which might suggest you have agreed with the repayment level.

If they have re-surfaced a debt you thought was written off, fight the decision. It is often a computer generated debt, not a conscious human decision. One way around this is to make the ISS prove how the debt came about.

**THE BIG LIE**

Fundamentally there is only one problem facing New Zealand, that is there is no problem facing New Zealand. This means that the poor politicians, economists and journalists have a hell of a time trying to convince us that we have lots of problems, as only by doing this can they then set up a situation to carry out the wishes of their masters, the market. So, not unnaturally, they have resorted to the tactics used by Hitler and Goebbels, the biglie, i.e. if the lie is big enough and you tell it often enough, people will believe you.

Here is where the theory of Thomas Jefferson comes in. He was the man who declared "all men are born equal". Now that was quite a revolutionary thing to say in those days. True when he said men, he was not talking of women. And neither was he talking of Red Indians, Negroes or Hispanics. Nevertheless, for his day, he was quite a revolutionary. His theory was "Let me write the papers of the land and I care not who write the laws". Today implementation has become most efficient. The monetarists have got control of both the politicians and the paper-writers so, the lie-telling becomes a single but very effective every day happening. This is where we are now. The politicians and the papers getting together to promote the wishes of their monetarist masters. And we actually pay to be told the big-lies they want us to hear.

The biggest of the big-lies must be the one about "export to survive". They start off by telling us we are a poor country. How the hell can this be? 100,000 square miles and only 3 1/2 million people. There is more than enough for all of us. Japan, with a similar sort of land, has over 120 million people. Now, there is where they have to export to survive. People have to work bloody hard just to

produce what is needed to survive. So too with the oil rich Arab states. If they could not export their oil, they would die of thirst in next to no time.

But here it's totally different. Our exports are only needed to pay for luxury items for the wealthy. Ordinary people could get on quite easily without any great effort to export. It would be no problem to export enough to get what the average person wants. So the Big Lie technique goes into play. Export to survive, they scream at us. SHEER RUBBISH.

Some examples of the Big-Lie.

Then Finance Minister, David Caygill in his budget speech of 1989, started off with "We've all been through a difficult five years ... ". What a liar. In 1984 he had been a backbencher on \$32,271 per year. In 1989 he was being paid \$113,000 per year. On top of that of course, there was the free house, 2 free cars, all the petrol etc., and a host of other things which included in calculating cost of living but which Ministers get free, or rather, paid for the poorer

good times? Once again, absolutely ignored by the opposition and the media.

Next, the biggest lie of all - User Pays. In 1985, when our taxes covered education, health, etc., the government took a total of 34.4% of the National Disposable Income in the way of taxes. By 1990, it was taking 42.5%. (NZ Year Book 1992, p 443.) If the user is paying for the services then why are we paying more taxes. Again, nothing from the media or the opposition.

Then there's the overseas debt. Think Big we are told is what caused it. But when Think Big ended in 1994 the official overseas debt was \$8,226 million. The dollar was then worth 44 cents US. By 1991, although our dollar had risen to around 60 cents US, and although we had sold around \$10,000 million worth of State owned assets, the debt had risen to \$20,585 million. (NZ Year Book 1992, pp443-444) Think Big ended and Lie Big has taken over.

Mike Moore, before 1984, wrote a book on "Value Adding to Our Exports". When he became Minister of Overseas Trade in 1984, not only did he not add value to our export by processing them, but actually reduced their value by sending them even less processed. Lamb carcasses were replaced by live sheep stock. Sawn timber replaced by round logs, and so on. One can't even identify where the lying began.

One only knows it will never end so long as the present mob, no longer public servants, but roundtable minions, are in office.

**THEY ARE NOT IN POWER.  
THEY ARE ONLY IN OFFICE. WE  
HAVE THE POWER. IT'S ONLY  
THAT WE HAVE NOT LEARNT  
HOW TO USE IT. THAT'S WHERE  
WE MUST START. LEARNING  
HOW TO USE OUR POWER.**

By Bill Maung



taxpayers. Definitely that word "we" in his speech was a big-lie. Yet neither the media nor the opposition took it up.

The same with the Prime Minister. In 1984, the pay was \$79,717. By 1990 it had risen to \$162,000. And those were hard times. What would it had been like if it was normal, or

# THE BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

## WHO ARE THEY AND WHAT DO THEY WANT?

Over the last few years the Business Round table has adopted a high profile arguing the case for big business on economic policy, the labour market and just about any other major issue affecting Aotearoa.

The Roundtable is a self selected group of Chief Executives of major corporations operating in New Zealand. It has become the most powerful lobby group in the country, representing the interests of big business and transnational corporations.

The Roundtable began as an informal group of Auckland industrialists in the mid-1970's. Meetings were convened

by Alan Mackney of NZ Forest Products at NZFP's Head Office. In 1976 Doug Walker (NZFP) took over and along with Ron Trotter (Fletcher Challenge) started to formalise the grouping. In 1980 the name "Business Roundtable" was adopted.

By 1982 membership had grown to twenty and the Roundtable was starting to widen its area of interest from industrial relations to other policy issues as well.

Sir Ron Trotter became chair in 1985 and in 1986 began a major expansion of the group. Roger Kerr was appointed full-time Executive Director and new members included Chief Executives from some of the prominent investment and financial corporations that had mushroomed in the previous few years - Alan Hawkins (Equiticorp), David Richwhite (Fay Richwhite), Alan Gibbs (Gibbs Securities). From 1986 the Roundtable began making submissions on government spending and deregulation of the economy and in the last few years the government has given Roundtable members public appointments, the most recent being John Anderson (National Bank) heading the Employment Taskforce.

The collective economic strength of the Roundtable is enormous. Between them the members hold directorships in nearly 200 major NZ companies. Five years ago an estimated 168,983 New Zealanders worked for BRT companies. That is more than the number employed by the government

BRT Companies dominate almost every major industry - Banking, Building, Forestry, Breweries, Food, Retail, Steel, Aluminium, Petrol, - The biggest companies in these areas all have BRT members on the board.

All the members are men, all are white, and all are extremely wealthy executives. Their common aim is to promote the interests of big business. The policies they promote hurt not only workers and unemployed people, but also small and medium sized business owners.

By Mark E. Poo

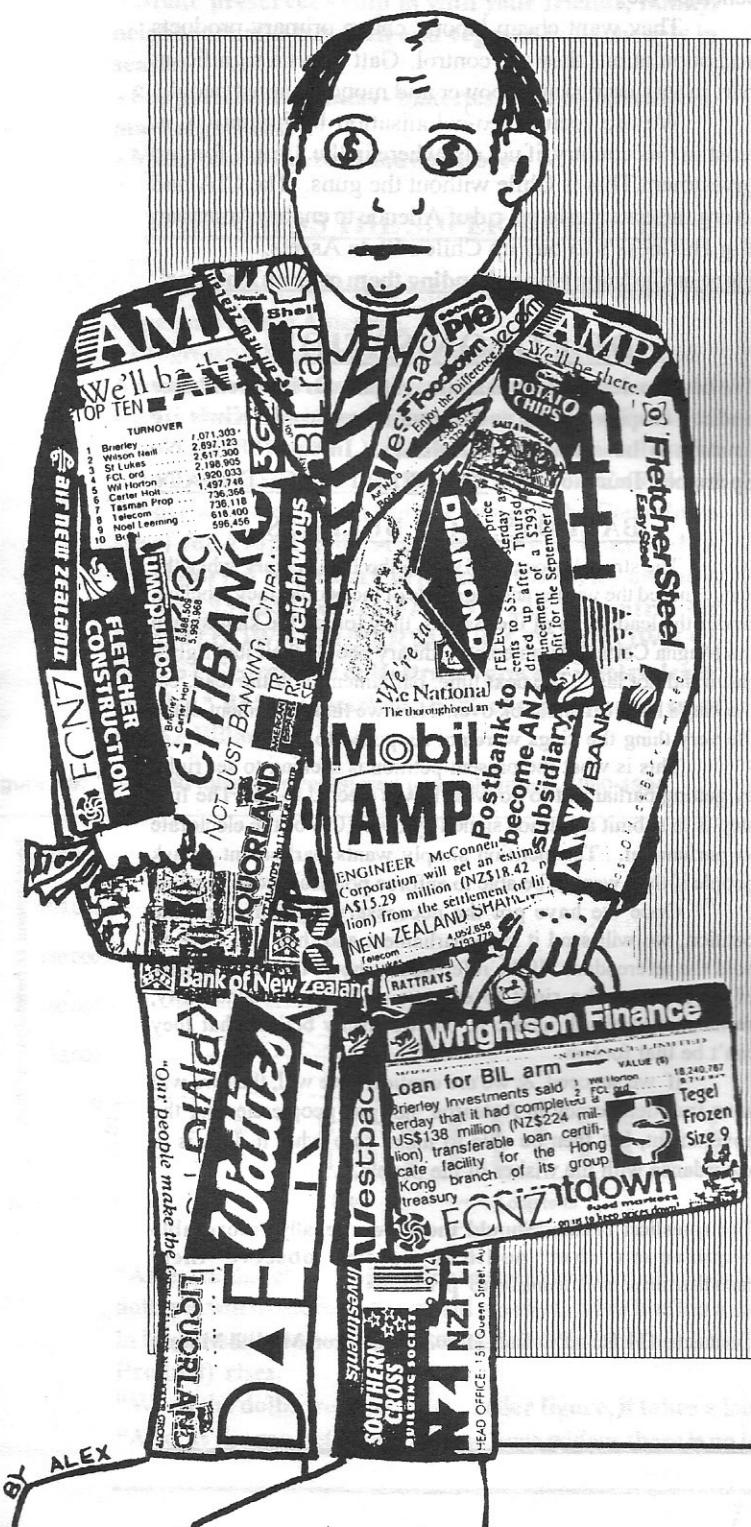
Thanks to the Trade Union Education Authority  
for information used in this article.

Straight from the Bananabrain's mouth: Alan Gibbs (B.R.T. member with an **EIGHT MILLION DOLLAR HOUSE**) says poverty has got nothing to do with economic policy. Poverty, he says, is caused by contraception, the breakdown of marriage and the introduction of the Domestic Purposes Benefit....

Evening Post Saturday Dec 3 1994.



So the moral of the story is .. if you go off the DPB, Alan Gibbs will give you a mansion to live in.



# The Business Roundtable

## Facing Aotearoa's Biggest Threat

### THE ISSUES

Sale of State Assets - Telecom, Postbank, BNZ, Railways, Govt Computer Services, Forests, etc

Privitisation of State Owned Enterprises (SOE's) - Health, Education, Prisons, Housing

Social Welfare destruction

User Pays - what are our taxes for?

Funding Cuts - Fire Service, the Arts, Voluntary & Community Sector etc etc

Foreign Investment - Recolonisation of Aotearoa by National and Trans-National Corporations

Media Control - bought up by BRT Companies

Structural Unemployment - deliberate gov't policy

Attacks on Workers and Unions

Increased Violence, Crime and Suicides

### THE OPTIONS

Kill them and open a chain of Restaurants called "Eat the Rich"

Find out where the Business Roundtable are in your Town/City/District - Boycott them where possible

Re-educate yourselves about these issues & the serious threat that they pose to the future of Aotearoa

Get involved in your community/local government/political process and talk to people

Tell people not to buy stocks and shares, if they think that they will get some control this way they are dreaming, eg. a Woman school teacher recently tried to get elected on to the Board of Brierleys.

Find other sources of information - local community newspapers, talk back radio, community radio.

### TURN OFF THE TV !!!!

**DO NOTHING AND WAKE UP IN A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY IN THE YEAR 2000** - if you think it's bad now, just imagine what will happen if these greedy monsters have their way for another 5 years.

### NEO-COLONISATION

Last century we saw colonisation by arms. The colonisation of the 20th century uses money as the weapon. The previous colonial powers, France, Germany, Britain, Spain to name just some, lost control of the colonies after World War II in sometimes violent independence struggles. Some colonies, like Argentina and the USA broke away much sooner.

The latter part of the twentieth century has seen the rise of another form of colonisation. This new, or neo-colonisation uses money and investment and has such international agencies like the IMF and World Bank imposing economic directions on third world countries. It also means transnationals coming in and buying the rights to resources, such as forests, minerals, water for power schemes etc.

They want cheap labour, cheap primary products and populations they can control. Gatt plays a significant part in this new war of power and money against people.

We are seeing neo-colonisation by invitation, at least in this country, if not elsewhere in the form of foreign investment. This is Chile without the guns. The CIA had to organise a coup to get rid of Allende to enable American Big Business's to buy up Chile's State Assets.

**Here in Godzone we are handing them over on a platter!**

### DE-COLONISATION

We need to decolonise yet again, regain our independence and self empowerment as community, as people. Kiwis are known to be a nation of fighters. In the 1980s - No Springbok Tour, No Nukes. **WE NEED TO FIGHT AGAIN.**

### BALLOTS, NOT BULLETS

The struggle goes on. Back in the 12th century when the King ignored the wishes and the needs of the people, they rebelled. Under the leadership of the Barons, they forced the king to sign the Magna Carta, guaranteeing ordinary people their just rights. But it did not last. The next time, parliament took the lead, cut the king's head off and took over. Now we find parliament doing the very thing the kings were not supposed to do.

This is what the present petition is seeking to set right, by getting parliament to do what it was elected to do. The first step is to submit a petition signed by over 10% of the electorate to parliament. The petition simply wants parliament to ask people if they want to be able to enforce political accountability.

Once we have got the necessary signatures on the petition, we will send it in to parliament and they will have to hold the referendum. If the referendum shows that the majority of us do want the right to enforce political accountability, parliament may still ignore it, but we firmly believe that they can't be that foolish.

If we succeed, & we are confident we will, then we will have true democracy in Aotearoa, not just people electing the government, but then be able to make sure what it does is in accordance with the wishes of the people.

The question reads "Should there be a legally enforceable requirement that political parties observe their constitutions and manifesto promises".

Contact: C.I.R. - PO Box 11 503 Wellington Mr Bill Maung

## STARVE THE BEAST DON'T FEED THE MACHINE

### Get out of the Supermarket

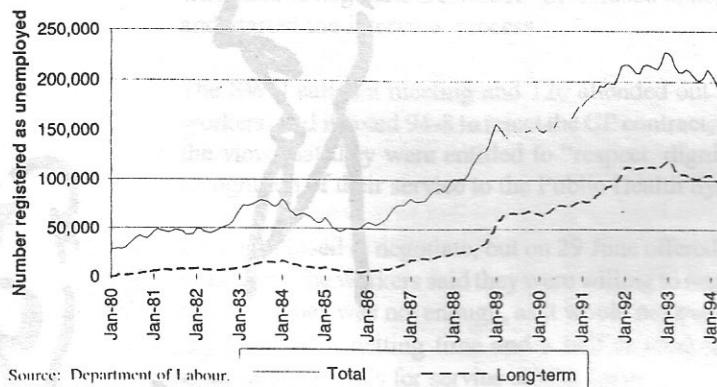
- Away from processed foods (less Toxins, preservatives, additives, etc)
- Start a community garden - plant your own veges
- Join a Green Dollar exchange to trade with others, if there isn't one, start one. It can be an informal bartering scheme
- Share resources - if someone has a big back-yard & somebody else has a rotary hoe, spades etc
- Make preserves - chip in with your friends, family, neighbours and buy fruit and veges in bulk cheaply in season
- Support local business - bakeries, food co-operatives, market gardens
- Make your own bread and home brew

### WHO OWNS THE SUPERMARKETS?

As at July 1993 THREE(3) Companies control the Supermarkets in Aotearoa.

\* Progressive/Foodlands Associated Ltd (FAL) NZ Ltd A merger between Coles Myers (Australia) (who owned 3 Guys Ltd and Foodtown Supermarkets Ltd), and Foodland Associated Ltd (FAL) (Australia), who then bought Countdown Foodmarkets Ltd for \$55,932,332, Countdown Properties (Northlands) Ltd (the owner of the Countdown sites) for \$70,229,000 and J Rattray & Sons Ltd (a subsidiary of Magnum Corp (largely Brierley owned)) for \$48,931,651 leaves FAL NZ Ltd in control of; COUNTDOWN \* SUPERVALUE \* FOODTOWN \* 3 GUYS \* Georgie Pie & Rattrays - grocery wholesaler & retailer \* 83 Supermarkets - 34% of supermarket sales est. \$2 Billion

Figure 1.9: Total and long-term registered unemployment, 1980-1994



Source: Department of Labour.

\* Foodstuffs Ltd; PAK & SAVE \* NEW WORLD \* FOUR SQUARE \* a co-operative of 1100 independently owned stores with 55% of the Market share

\* Dairy Farm International (Hong Kong); WOOLWORTHS (New Zealand) Ltd sold by Lion Nation July 1990 includes; BIG FRESH \* ASSOCIATED WHOLESALERS

\* 11 % of Market share

FOODLAND (FAL) also partly owns the Farmers/Deka chain which it bought in a 50.01/49.99 % joint venture with the Maori Development Corporation in November 1992. This includes Deka NZ Ltd (former Woolworths variety goods chain), James Smiths Department Stores Ltd, Farmers Trading Company Ltd, (FTC Holdings Ltd) as well as the Toy Warehouse chain.

If you go and look in these shops you will find that the majority of the goods for sale are NOT made in New Zealand. Most of the goods are in fact MADE IN CHINA.

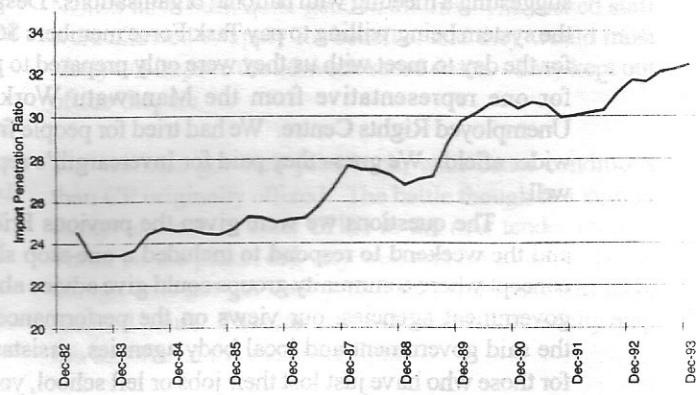
### MADE IN CHINA

The Chinese Dragon sleeps with one eye open. The last stronghold of communism is watching  
Their children die, by the executioners gun. Our children cry, while the Business Roundtable has fun  
Trading with murderers, we murder our own. Furnish our dole queues with their torture and death  
Aiding and abetting the master's slavery This is how we repay their death with our democracy  
We are the ones that choose to pay their price. What's it gonna be, a decent wage or a bowl of rice?

By Gaye

### BUY NEW ZEALAND MADE

Figure 2.5: Import Penetration Rate, 1982 - 1993



The import penetration rate is the ratio of what we import to what is produced in New Zealand.  
Source: Statistics New Zealand.

"As the dollar changes in value to the detriment of exports & goods produced for consumption in Aotearoa, i.e. our dollar is worth more on the world market, there is often a rapid reduction in production locally. This can mean a rise in imports to compensate. Even without an increase in imports, imports as a percentage of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) rises.

"When the dollar returns to its earlier figure, it takes a long time for the level of local production to return."

"Also, as the gap between rich and poor widens there is an increase in imported luxury goods and overseas holidays."

## Hastings Combined Beneficiaries Union

There are three campaigns which in our opinion should be given priority. They are of equal merit and are not in priority order.

1. Stand down before getting U. B.; within limits, the more one was earning in a job the greater the commitments undertaken. And, on losing the job, the longer it takes to adjust commitments to meet the U. B. entitlement. This is not taken into account as it should be.
2. The system under which a solo parent lives (exists) is such as to totally discourage that parent from seeking employment. Unless the employment found nets more than the D. P. B. the solo parent must be worse off working than not.
3. G.S.T. is theft. A low income person, (working or not) has to pay 12.5% tax on the basic necessities of life, ie bread and butter. Not only is this theft, but its only fiscal effect is to keep down the income tax of middle and upper earners at the expense of the poor.

P.S. We put "earners" in blocks because nobody, but nobody can possibly "earn" \$100,000+ P.A. There is of course a system akin to blackmail by which talents of individuals may be in such demand that they can command such payments.

James Whitaker.

## Employment Task Force Meeting

Te Roopu Rawakore representatives from Palmerston North, Wellington and Invercargill met with members of the Employment Task Force on Monday 19 September to respond to some common questions on the issue.

We decided to meet after receiving a letter suggesting a meeting with national organisations. Despite the system being willing to pay Task Force members \$600 for the day to meet with us they were only prepared to pay for one representative from the Manawatu Workers Unemployed Rights Centre. We had tried for people from wider afield. We guess they paid for Invercargill's rep as well.

The questions we were given the previous Friday and the weekend to respond to included a one-stop shop concept where community groups could give advice about government agencies, our views on the performance of the said government and local body agencies, assistance for those who have just lost their jobs or left school, youth unemployment and compulsory tags to benefit entitlement.

On another tangent, Sue Bradford, an ex-National Co-ordinator of Te Roopu Rawakore and now spokesperson for ANUB, was also at this meeting. She could see with her own eyes that we are not dead despite comments which said we were. We hope talk of our death will stop as it is a bit of a shock to read or hear of such in the media (eg Metro April 93)."

## WELLINGTON UNEMPLOYED WORKER'S UNION

have prepared a submission on an inquiry the Social Services Select committee are doing about "privilege" provisions of section 11 of the social security act. This is about where they can ask information from any beneficiary about benefit status, whereabouts or whatever. DSW can impose a \$2,000 fine plus \$200 per day if you refuse to help after the fifth day.

We ran a campaign against it last year.

Privilege is reserved for lawyers/doctors. The thrust of the submission is that it is wrong in its entirety. It also talks of the status of beneficiaries, a general right to refuse to answer, and the need for a benefit system that has integrity - we get what we are entitled too, as well as not ripping the system off.

I alluded to Hitler/Stalin/McCarthy using similar tactics to get information about fellow citizens as this section promotes.

By Graham Howell

**GREATER UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN RICH AND POOR....**

**I UNDERSTAND  
VERY POOR**



**I UNDERSTAND  
YOU'RE VERY RICH**

## UPDATE ON THE SOUTHERN C.H.E. DISPUTE

The contractor is Command Pacific(CP) alias Crothalls.

The dispute started at 5 am on July 1 and went for 9 days.

If the Employment Contracts Act did not exist, Crothalls could not have effectively sacked the orderlies, domestic and kitchen staff.

The sacked staff and those who got the job through NZES feared 26 week stand down.

It seems these services have been contracted out for a while. The Southland Area Health Board had always put in a "continuity of service", some protection of conditions provision were contained in the tender document. The Service Workers Union(SWU) tried to find out if these provisions were in the new tender document and were told they were, but were denied a look at the tender document after Crothalls had got the contract because of 'commercial sensitivity'.

The CHE could have made sure the above provisions were in the tender at any stage, and even in the new contract.

The CHE claimed it was not responsible for the dispute, and in the media it tried to undermine public support for the picketing workers.

When it was announced in mid May that Command Pacific were the contractors, the Service Workers approached them to negotiate an employment contract. CP said it was assessing the situation and would negotiate later. CP and SWU kept in touch but negotiations had still not started the week prior to the contract start date, July 1. At this meeting CP indicated it would conduct individual interviews, and offer jobs as a job with company contract or no job. The SWU said it was the bargaining agent and was there to negotiate a contract. CP refused to negotiate and started the interview process.

The SWU called a meeting and 120 attended out of 130 workers, and it voted 94-8 to reject the CP contract, taking the view that they were entitled to "respect, dignity and recognition of their service to the Public Health System".

CP still refused to negotiate, but on 29 June offered a sum of money. The workers said they were willing to negotiate, but the money was not enough, as it would not even cover the loss of not getting time and a half at weekends, or cover accruement's for service or sick leave.

Talks broke down on June 30. CP flew in management from all over NZ and Australia to do the interviews of the people (scabs) NZES sent. (Scabs because they would be strike breakers). The Management and scabs crossed the picket line "with some difficulties" and at times "under police escort". This continued for 10 days, in at times atrocious weather conditions.

During the ten days the CP and the SWU continued to meet, and a settlement was reached on July 10. The new contract was substantially better than the CP original, including some provision for accrued service and sick leave.

If CP had negotiated from the start, or offered the original workers the jobs and negotiated, the dispute would not have happened.

### The NZES Role

The NZES got involved in an industrial dispute, as early as June 29, when they asked various TOPs providers to get their trainees to prepare for job interviews. They also contacted others on the unemployment register. Interviews took place in the Invercargill NZES office before talks between CP and SWU officially broke down.

NZES knew negotiations were still going on, and if SWU had been successful no vacancies would have existed - and if not, they would have been supplying alternative labour.

NZES mentioned the 26 week stand down to a SWU official. It is believed the same threat may have been mentioned in some interviews. As it happens, the stand down would most likely not be applied in such a situation. Nevertheless NZES was out of order.

There is some thought that Job Plus may have been available to CP.

Had NZES not supplied the alternative labour CP would have been more likely to negotiate all the way through.

NZISS have been quite good in all this. The sacked staff were allowed to apply for benefits, and they would most likely not impose the 26 week stand down. They kept out of the dispute.

The workers got their jobs back, with better conditions than CP originally offered. The battle though is a sign of things to come in other CHEs in the new tender rounds. Those on the picket did very well and learnt a lot. Many though will not get their jobs back, and most will have reduced hours. The alternative labour will ironically reap the benefits of the picketers fight.

The picketers are mainly middle-aged women. They received a lot of support from the public.

(The above is an abridged version from a letter sent by Graham Elliott, Youth Worker/Advocate, Southland Beneficiaries & Community Rights Centre.)

# INTERNATIONAL

## Edinburgh Unemployed Workers' Centre

We are the only broad based autonomous centre in Scotland & we are in danger of being shut down. Our lease has expired, but we are occupying the building 24 hrs/day to confront the threatened eviction. We ask @ists and others to:

- Visit us if you can
- circulate info about us in your zines and by word of mouth
- send letters acknowledging solidarity

The Centre is open Monday to Friday (everyday during this situation) 12-4 pm and offers:

- cheap vegan cafe
- space for community and political groups (theatre group, earth 1st, hunt sabs, etc)
- advice/support on benefits (welfare), and avoiding VATax, and poll/council tax, etc.
- children's playroom
- info shop

### A Brief History of the Centre

- 1981 The Centre was founded as a Labour party charity during the 1st wave of mass unemployment  
- mid-late 1980s The Centre saw an influx of independents: the Claimants union, anti-work folks and anti-poll tax activists. This led to 2 strands: Labour hacks and independents.

- 1990 The Lothian Regional Labour Council withdrew the funds because of the anti-poll tax activities. The official reason was "lack of funds". The Centre continued with all volunteer activists.

- 1991 The 7 trustees for the centre were 4 independents and 3 Labour hacks. The Labour hacks entered the building, changed the locks, & closed the building to the public. A couple of days later, the independents re-entered the building and re-opened it. Shortly thereafter, Labour hacks broke in and under the eye of the police, stole \$40,000 worth of equipment. They also froze the centre's \$16,000 bank account. The Centre continued to run anyway.

-1994, February The Labour Council inspected the building and issued a fabricated report that the building was a fire trap and the kitchen was unhygienic. Centre volunteers then got the building inspected, proved the Labour hacks knew it was a fraud and forced them to publicly admit that they were lying. During this time the centre workers talked to the Community Council which agreed to ask for the lease and keep the centre functioning as a collective.

June 14 The lease expired, occupation began (squatting is completely illegal in Scotland)

June 28 The Labour Council met to decide on the lease issue, but Convener Brian Cavenagh, who hates the centre, refused to bring the issue up until the centre is vacated.

June 29 Three police showed up at the door claiming to have received a bomb threat.

We had barricaded the door and told them we wouldn't let

them in. They went away.

It is possible that the bomb threat had nothing to do with the council, but who knows.

The Edinburgh Unemployed Workers' Centre is located at:

103 Broughton St., Edinburgh, Scotland

Tel. (031) 557-0718

Postal address: 11a Forth St.,

Edinburgh,

Scotland

email = ian@spider.co.uk

--ooOoo--

### UPDATE - Thursday 1st December 1994

"Early today, police and sheriff officers smashed into the centre and evicted the occupants. At this moment supporters of the Centre are at 103 Broughton St to stop our equipment being removed and to stop the Centre being boarded up. We are determined to keep the Centre open."

## IBM Workers Resist

IBM workers around the world, like workers in other companies, are facing severe attacks on their standard of living by a Corporate board intent on increasing profits and shareholder value at the expense of IBM employees.

-Tens of thousands of workers have been and are being fired. This past week firings took place in Raleigh, NC and announcements of more terminations are waiting in the wings for other locations.

-Pay raises have become non-existent, while corporate officers enrich them-selves with yearly raises of up to 30%.

-Permanent employment goes down while temporary help increases. Permanent employees have been laid off only to be offered their old job back as a temp.

-Benefits and severance pay have been reduced.

-Surviving employees face an unbearable increase in workload which increases stress and health problem inside and outside of the workplace.

-Employees feel (rightly so) that they have no control over their work lives and that corporate management does not care about their concerns.

As the IBM workplace continues to deteriorate it is becoming more clear that IBM workers must organise to protect their own interests.

For more info contact:

Lee Conrad <LEE19@delphi.com>  
National Organiser

IBM Workers United newsletter is the RESISTOR.

# WOMEN

GAY OAKES

People (Women) angry at the murder conviction and life sentence handed down to mother-of-six Gay Oakes are encouraged to get in touch with a Gay Oakes support group near them.

Wellington organiser Jan Logie says the justice system (injustice) ignored the history of constant abuse Oaks suffered despite evidence from her doctor, women's refuge and police records including five non-molestation orders and numerous complaints.

Oaks was convicted of the murder of her defacto husband Doug Gardner on 30 August in what became known as "the body in the garden case".

Oakes's defence was that she suffered battered women's syndrome but her plea of provocation was quashed. The jury returned a verdict of murder rather than manslaughter.

"The ruling affects a lot more women than just Gay Oakes," says Logie. "A lot of people have expressed interest in offering support and groups have already been established."

Victoria University law lecturer, Elisabeth McDonald, commenting about battered women's syndrome and how it is taken into account by NZ courts says, "The syndrome can take various forms and can manifest itself as learned helplessness. The battered woman is totally unable to take active steps to get out of the situation she is in."

McDonald says an expert's evidence is important and helpful for a jury to understand the syndrome as grounds for provocation. Often the battered woman may appear unemotive, as in the case of Oakes, as they are in a state of what clinical psychologists call post traumatic distress disorder. She says, "The system is extremely sexist. It differs between men and women when it comes to grounds for provocation".

There are many examples where males have successfully used provocation by the victim as their defence. Juries have accepted that a female victim's rejection of an ex-lover or comments on the accused's virility, for example, are sufficient grounds for provocation. However this has not worked in reverse when a female accused has used provocation as a defence, even when she has been in an abusive relationship.

**What you can do - write to Justice (Injustice) Minister Doug Graham. Write to Gay Oakes, Paparoa Prison, Christchurch - get in touch with your nearest Gay Oakes support group - if there isn't one - call a meeting and start one. Gay Oakes Support Group, P.O. Box 10 191, Wellington.**

## Women Reclaim The Night

### Whakahokia Mai Te Mana O Te Po Ki Nga Wahine

Kia ora, Talofa lava, Ni sa bula, Fakalofa lahi atu, Taloha ni, greetings to everyone.

Male violence, family violence, domestic violence - call it what you will, the effect of male-perpetrated violence against women is widespread. Within Aotearoa, one in four women will be sexually abused by a man by the time she is 16; this figure doesn't even begin to describe the women who are subject to not only sexual abuse but also mental and physical abuse.

Yet we are fed myths that this is because "she asked for it," "it takes two to tango," "she shouldn't have been walking/hitching/driving/living alone."

How long must women carry the blame and consequence of male violence against us? For too long NZ society has hidden and apologised for men and their apparent inability to control their anger or their fists.

Women are portrayed negatively in the media, whilst violence against us is legitimised. How many times have you seen rape scenes

shown repeatedly, or guns being used to resolve conflicts, or men seducing women who "really wanted it, even though they said no"? All these messages of both brutal and indirect violence filter through into people's minds, saying it's okay.

#### It's not okay. Anytime, anywhere, anyhow.

Violence against women is unacceptable, and we will tell this message until we are heard everywhere throughout Aotearoa. For many years women have been making this visible through refuge work and rape crisis centres, protest, reclaim the night marches, and in lots of other ways.

In Wellington a Reclaim the Night March was held on Friday November 25.

This was International Day Against Violence Against Women, the start of sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. We encourage Women all over Aotearoa to organise events about gender violence.

By Cathy Blakely



# JOB ACTION

## New Zealand Exploitation Service

Job Action is the latest tactic NZES is using to reduce the number of long term unemployed on their registers.

Once again the onus for being unemployed is being placed on the individual rather than on this Government's dismal performance in REAL job creation since it came into power in 1990 with a promise to "halve unemployment in the next 3 years".

Job Action is a 5 day course, piloted in Palmerston North in September 1994 by the Manawatu Polytechnic.

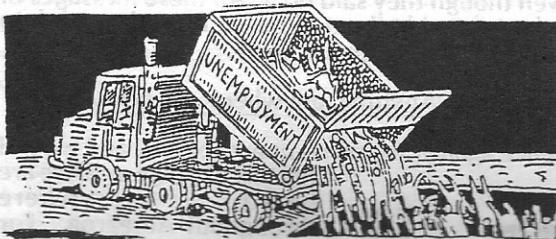
Course content included self-esteem, motivation, interviews, letter writing techniques, identifying transferable skills, TOPS courses available, where to look for jobs, choosing a job, solving problems and a tour of the Polytechnic which culminated in a "Job Action Plan".

The Job Action Plan consists of the Job Seeker choosing 3 jobs, how they will go about finding and getting these jobs & the time period in which this is to take place.

The first job is identified as your (unrealistic) "dream" job. The second as a more realistic job suited to your skills and qualifications. The third job is the most realistic that you could hope to find.

The "Job Action Plan" includes a contract between the "Job Seeker", NZES and the Workshop provider stating that the actions outlined will be followed through.

Job Action is part of the \$9 million dollar budget set aside by the National government for the long term unemployed (2 years or more).



Concerns raised by both job seekers that have completed the course, beneficiaries and the Manawatu Workers Unemployed Rights Centre;

**1. No consultation** between the NZES and community groups who work with the unemployed who have a clearer understanding of the needs and appropriateness of courses that are targeting the long term unemployed.

**2. The compulsory nature** of the course. Despite NZES stating that the long term unemployed will NOT be forced into attending, several complaints have been made with MWURC stating that at the Job Action interview the course was "compulsory". If they did not attend, their benefits would be "at risk".

### **3. The legality of the "Job Action" CONTRACT**

Job Seekers are coerced into signing the "Job Action Plan" Contract. It is not a legal document when signed under duress, ie when threatened with benefit cuts or loss.

**4. The course material is inappropriate**, it takes no account of a person's background, aspirations, work experience or educational qualifications. Participants are treated in patronising, insulting ways, and are made to feel like children.

**5. The Course content is repetitious** for the thousands who have gone through previous schemes such as Job Club, Job Link etc. Any non-attendance of parts of the workshop, no matter how often gone through previously, puts your benefit at risk.

**6. The approach is victimising** in nature and added punishment for not being able to find work.

**7. Lack of consistency across New Zealand.** The South Island's pilot of Job Action included outdoor activities such as abseiling compared with the extensive indoor activities of Palmerston North.

**8. There are no course evaluation procedures** that include the Job Seekers or independent evaluators who can justify taxpayer dollars being spent. We assume effectiveness of the course will be measured against job seekers gaining employment or going on to further training. (Getting them off the register one way or another)

**9. It is deceiving that NZES** is in the position to load these individuals into training or Taskforce Green schemes. This has already happened to several individuals, who attending the course were placed on Taskforce Green schemes. Why has this not happened previously within the two or more years these people have been unemployed?

This further confirms a Clean Slate Policy that NZES is implementing to reduce the number of long term unemployed. By placing an individual on a training scheme or a Taskforce Green Scheme (for 26 weeks) will take these individuals off the long term unemployed register.

### **10. The experience and competence of the tutors**

Tutors have been described as being unorganised, inexperienced, unprepared and treating participants like children.

**11. The lack of NZES involvement.** An NZES representative spent half an hour in total at the end of the course, interviewing participants individually. This takes the onus off NZES to act in its capacity as an employment agency and puts total responsibility onto the individual.

**12. Time and content of the "indepth" interview.** The interview lasted five minutes and consisted of being told that it is compulsory to attend the Course on risk of losing benefit payments.

**12. Priority given to the course.** One individual was told it was more important to attend the Job Action Course than to attend their Periodic Detention.

**13. The funding, monitoring and evaluation of the course** and its effectiveness must be questioned if accurate accountability to the tax payer is to be attained.

### **DO NOT SIGN THE CONTRACT!**

#### **STOP PRESS**

Job action looks as though it will be incorporated into "Individual Case Management" for both School leavers and the long term unemployed.

Micheal Ballard <miballar@leland.Stanford.EDU writes:

The heaviest element known to science was recently discovered by investigators at a major research university. The element tentatively named Administratium, has no protons, no electrons and thus has an atomic number of 0. However, it does have 1 neutron, 125 assistant neutrons, 75 vice neutrons, and 111 assistant vice neutrons. This gives it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together by a force that involves the continuous exchange of meson-like particles called morons.

Since it has no electrons, Administratium is inert. However, it can be detected chemically as it impedes every reaction it comes in contact with. According to those who discovered the element a minute amount of Administratium caused one reaction to take over four days to complete when it would have normally occurred in less than one second.

Administratium has a normal half-life of approximately three years, at which time it does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganisation in which assistant neutrons, vice neutrons and assistant vice neutrons exchange places. Some studies have shown that the atomic mass actually increases after each reorganisation.

Research at other laboratories indicates that Administratium occurs naturally in the atmosphere. It tends to concentrate at certain points such as government agencies, large corporations and universities. It can usually be found in the newest, best appointed and best maintained buildings.

Scientists point out that Administratium is known to be toxic at any level of concentration and can easily destroy any productive reaction where it is allowed to accumulate. Attempts are being made to determine how Administratium can be controlled to prevent irreversible damage, but results to date are not promising. From PlaNet News.

## Caption Competition



What's the potato saying now?

Send your replies to Declaration by February 1st, 1995. The best reply wins \$50 and a bunch of bananas.

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD ANSWERS

### Across

- 1 Inflation Rate
- 8 Eta
- 9 item
- 10 oh
- 12 eggs
- 15 mob
- 17 pate
- 19 cool
- 20 obey
- 21 orate
- 22 NUMB
- 23 eel
- 24 Tops
- 26 fossil
- 29 & 34 & 44 Made in China
- 32 tar
- 34 (See 29 across)
- 36 SO
- 38 pus
- 40 Electricorp
- 42 ode
- 44 (See 29 across)
- 46 yol
- 47 saltpeter

### Down

- 1 Indecent Society
- 2 & 37 Lies Lies Lies
- 3 trampoline
- 4 ox
- 5 Ruthless
- 6 tampons
- 7 totem
- 11 Hey Big Brother
- 13 & 14 Go Go
- 16 & 27 Sue Bradford
- 18 A Bullet
- 25 Police
- 27 (see 16 down)
- 28 IT
- 33 AS
- 35 ACTUP
- 37 (see 2 down)
- 38 prat
- 39 UP
- 41 loo
- 42 ode
- 44 mc
- 45 at

Another cryptic brainteaser coming to you in Issue #3!

Dear fellow "workers", we were delighted to receive copies of "Declaration" and were filled with admiration for the drive and dedication that it must have taken to be able to produce and issue it. However! The whole effort is ruined, or at least heading that way. When we get to page 12 of issue one we find "Rabble Babble" full of obscene and offensive language. This sort of thing can only turn possible supporters against us. We suggest you have a rethink. Meanwhile we are searching for places to issue the magazine, minus the offending article. We want supporters, not enemies.

James Whitaker  
Beneficiaries Liaison Officer,  
Hawkes Bay

====

## The I.S.S.

1. The ISS are not the "enemy", to attack them is to create enmity. They are civil servants who are bound by laws and regulations laid down by the government. If we cooperate with them it can often result in a recheck, and a more favourable interpretation, of the rule book they must follow.

2. This does not mean we bow down, and meekly accept the rulings of the first person we deal with. If dissatisfied, we tell them of our disappointment, and that we have to see the next superior. We follow this chain, up to and including if necessary our M.P. and the Minister of Social Welfare.

3. If ISS can trust us, and believe what we tell them, we can gain their respect and cooperation. So when we have facts which we are certain of by checks, we tell them so. If the information is something that we have not, or could not check, we change the presentation, ie "I have been informed that...". If we lie, and are discovered to have lied, how can we expect to be believed on future occasions.

James Whitaker  
Beneficiaries Liaison Officer,  
Hawkes Bay

====

Dear Declaration,  
I've just read the papers about the Employment Taskforce. The Chair, John Anderson (BRT, National Bank) says we unemployed should "play the game" or our dole will be cut! What game? These arrogant bastards running this country have to be removed. I'm sick of being "consulted" and then ignored by wankers in suits. And what is Sue Bradford (Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre) on about. She has been quoted in the paper as saying she is pleased with the report. She says the Taskforce have listened

to us!! Perhaps Sold-Out-Sue is after a nice job as a government Employment Commissioner. Maybe I'm a bit naieve but it seems like theres a war happening here. Rich vs Poor, and if you side with the rich that makes you a traitor Sue.

Mark Eden,  
Wellington

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welcome!

Submissions for the  
Jan/Feb '95 Edition  
are now being accepted.  
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Please make cheques out to: Community Printing House  
Trust

*Declaration* is happy to accept free adverts which  
advise beneficiaries of assistance and support  
services. We also run paid adverts for businesses  
which aim their services at unemployed or beneficiaries

*Declaration* does not intend, however, to run a  
classified advertisement section.

## Te Roopu Rawakore O Aotearoa

Te Roopu Rawakore o Aotearoa, The Unemployed & Beneficiaries Movement of New Zealand is still in operation. Since it's inception in 1983 it has had a varied and colourful history.

In the past 12 months there has been a structural change whereby it is hoped to be more centre driven with the role of the National Collective made up of regional representatives from all over Aotearoa.

We network nationally with community centres, individuals and community groups working to help the unemployed, beneficiaries and low income people of Aotearoa.

These Centres offer some or all of the services as follows:

- ❖ Support and Advocacy advice - Income Support Service, the Employment Service, Accident Compensation, Inland Revenue etc.  
(Advocacy is where you are helped to get what you are entitled to)
- ❖ Information about the causes of Unemployment.
- ❖ Information about how to get extra Benefit entitlements, eg, Special Benefit, Special Needs Grants, Disability allowance.
- ❖ Budget Advice
- ❖ Debt survival
- ❖ Crisis Counselling - Networking to specialist counselling services.
- ❖ Employer Problems - CTU Sweat-lines - help with Employment Tribunal, unfair dismissal, sexual harassment etc.
- ❖ Redundancy counselling
- ❖ Education Talks to TOPS, Polytechs, Highschools, Community groups and the public
- ❖ Skills Sharing Networks
- ❖ Civil Rights Information
- ❖ Practical help, responding to needs of clients as seen by the clients.

Most centres operate on consensus, are staffed by volunteers and recognise the importance, knowledge and personal experience of every individual involved. Clients often become volunteers, gain confidence, learn new skills, undertake training programmes, and sometimes end up in paid employment.

Centres work to empower people seeking assistance by helping them to find their own solutions.

The organisation is set up in a non-hierarchical manner in order to promote as much participation as possible.

On a National level we have made submissions on relevant bills and have attended conferences hosted by other group.

Te Roopu Rawakore is currently working on aspects of the Investigation Unit of Income and Support Services procedures. We are interested in hearing from people who have dealt with them.

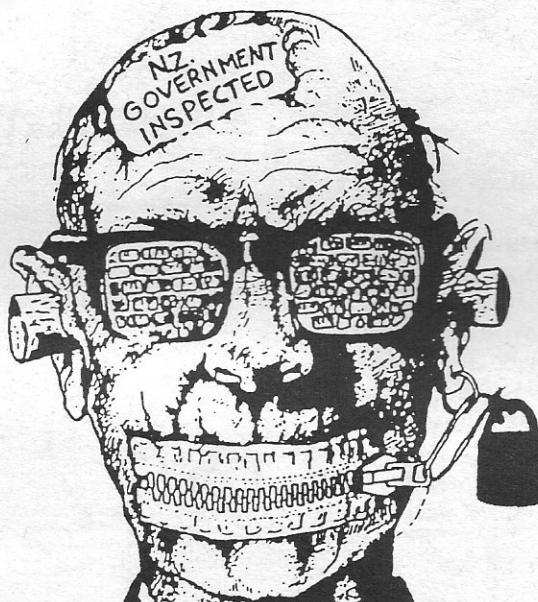
We pick up on issues affecting Low Income and Beneficiaries through the media, although the mainstream media are not always receptive to our ideas. We look for, and work with alternatives, such as Access Radio Programmes, other print media and in the long term, creating our own print media. This magazine is part of this cunning plan.

As a consequence of being one of the few organisations that openly and publicly criticize the Government we have major difficulty getting funding from traditional sources. We operate the National Information and Resource Centre on a shoe-string budget. The main function of the resource centre is to keep everyone in touch by sending out Mail-outs to all the groups, and to co-ordinate any National activities. With the establishment of the National Magazine, mail-outs should become a thing of the past.

The National Movement is also working hard to connect all centres electronically using a Bulletin Board system called PlaNet. With the help of a grant from the PSA we hope to see at least 20 of the centres networking this way by the end of this year.

The National Movement's role as a credible effective lobby group for the rights of beneficiaries was seen with it's liaison with the Social Policy Agency in Wellington. This was demonstrated by those with the knowledge and first hand experience of what is actually happening out in the various districts, who came to Wellington in the hope of influencing the policy makers. We feel that without the ability to sit down and talk to these people from a National perspective, valuable information would not be fed back directly to those in a position to influence the Minister.

Unfortunately, with growing numbers of beneficiaries, especially the unemployed, the workload of many Centres and the number of centres working is constantly on the increase. But, conversely, the support from Government is on the decrease. Our own national meetings are held approximately every three months where as many centres as possible attend.



# Te Roopu Rawakore o Aotearoa

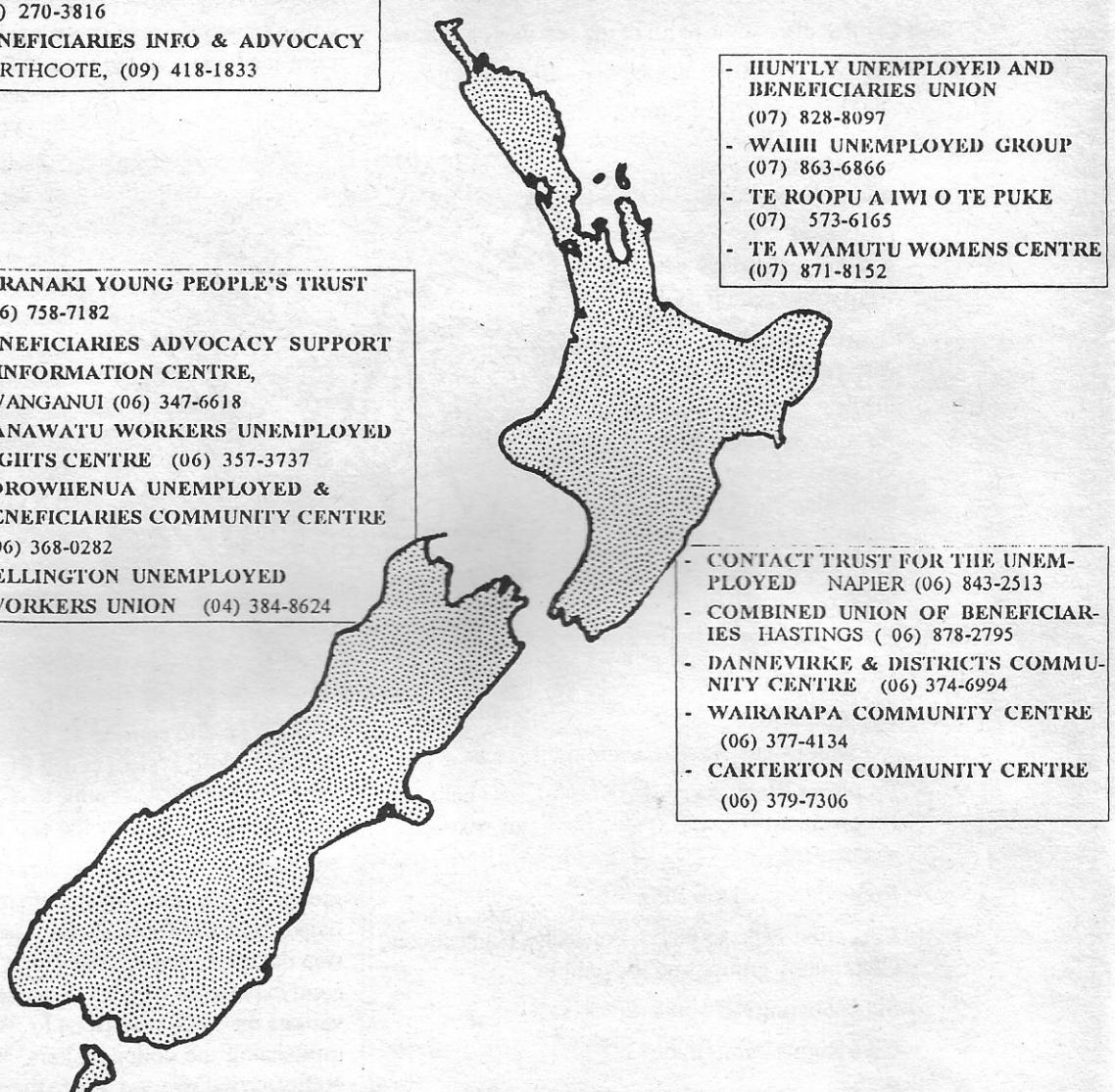
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